

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 7, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 1

Introduced by Senator Cedillo
(Principal coauthor: Senator Alquist)
(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl and Romero)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Coto and Torrico)

December 4, 2006

An act to add Section 12087.5 to the Government Code, relating to naturalization services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1, as amended, Cedillo. Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Existing law sets forth the duties of the Department of Community Services and Development respecting certain community programs in the state. Existing law appropriates \$3,000,000 to the department for purposes of the Naturalization Services Program, which assists legal permanent residents in obtaining citizenship.

This bill would establish within the department the Office of Immigrant Affairs in order to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state. The office would be overseen and managed by a director who would administer the Naturalization Services Program and develop a program plan to add components to that program. The director would also work with local organizations to ensure the success and availability of services provided through the Naturalization Services Program. The bill would also authorize the office to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations that serve immigrants and would authorize these organizations to be reimbursed by the office if funds are available and the director approves the reimbursement, as provided. *Additionally, this bill would require the*

office, starting on May 1, 2009, and every odd-numbered year afterwards, to submit a state plan to the Legislature detailing the goals of the office and results from the efforts of the office, and provide that the appropriate legislative policy committees hold public hearings on each state plan. The bill would require the office to adjust the state plan according to the comments presented at the legislative hearings and written comments submitted to the office.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
2 (1) Immigrants are a vibrant force in California's changing
3 demographics. More than one-quarter of California residents are
4 foreign born. Of the 8.8 million foreign born, 39 percent are United
5 States citizens and 3.3 million are legal permanent residents.
6 (2) Most noncitizens have family members who are citizens.
7 Ninety percent of Latinos and 80 percent of Asians live in
8 households with citizens.
9 (3) Approximately 40 percent of Californians speak a language
10 other than English at home.
11 (4) Fifty-five percent of California's immigrants come from
12 Latin America, while 33 percent come from Asia, 8 percent from
13 Europe, 2 percent from North America, and the rest from Africa
14 and Oceania.
15 (5) Immigrants fuel California's economy through their labor
16 and entrepreneurship. Immigrants comprise one-third of
17 California's labor force in key economic sectors: 40 percent in
18 general services, 45 percent in manufacturing, and 33 percent work
19 in a variety of sectors. Sixty-six percent of gardeners are
20 immigrants. Sixty-six percent of cooks are immigrants. Sixty-six
21 percent of domestic workers are immigrants. Ninety percent of
22 farm workers are immigrants.
23 (6) Immigrants are among California's most productive
24 entrepreneurs and have created jobs for tens of thousands of
25 Californians. In San Jose alone, immigrant owners of technology
26 companies created more than 58,000 jobs and generated more than
27 \$17 billion in sales during the 1990s.

1 (7) Immigrants will represent a significant proportion of
2 California's voters in years to come. In California, there are
3 currently 2.7 million immigrants eligible to naturalize and several
4 million more that will soon become eligible to naturalize. This
5 will increase the number of voters who are naturalized citizens in
6 the years to come.

7 (8) California has at least 85 cities where noncitizen adults
8 comprise more than 25 percent of the city's total voting-age
9 population. There are 30 municipalities where noncitizen adults
10 make up more than 40 percent of the voting-age population.

11 (9) Immigrants often require the most assistance immediately
12 upon arrival to the United States. However, as immigrants reside
13 in the state for a longer period of time, they are less likely to use
14 services and more likely to contribute to the state's culture and
15 economy.

16 (10) It is in the best interest of the state and its residents to
17 establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs for state government to
18 advocate and promote cooperation and understanding between
19 government agencies and immigrant residents, and to assist
20 immigrants toward naturalization.

21 (11) Citizenship and civic participation among all California
22 residents is vital to the economic and societal well-being of the
23 state.

24 (12) It is in the state's best interests to help its immigrant
25 population integrate in society, develop a sense of belonging, and
26 seize opportunities for success in order to ensure equal opportunity
27 for a high quality of life of every resident.

28 (13) California's primary goal should be to support the ability
29 of all residents, including immigrants to be economically
30 self-sufficient, participate in our nation's and state's political
31 process, and foster a sense of responsibility to our community.

32 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Office of Immigrant
33 Affairs ensure state government agencies and California
34 communities are aware of the needs of immigrants and that
35 immigrants receive appropriate assistance to quickly achieve and
36 maintain self-reliance and full integration into our society.

37 SEC. 2. Section 12087.5 is added to the Government Code, to
38 read:

39 12087.5. (a) The Office of Immigrant Affairs is hereby
40 established within the Department of Community Service and

1 Development. In order to ensure the integration and civic
2 participation of new citizens in the state, the office shall do all of
3 the following:

4 (1) In coordination with city and county government agencies,
5 ensure that new citizens and eligible immigrants obtain information
6 about the naturalization process and help them access translated
7 information on resources available in the state. The office shall
8 also post a resource list and a list of referrals on adult education,
9 English literacy, civic education, citizenship services, consumer
10 protection, housing, and domestic violence services in California.

11 (2) Make known the needs of immigrant communities by setting
12 objectives and deliverables, and partnering with state government
13 agencies to expand and assist outreach efforts to ethnic
14 communities. The office may work with agencies, including, but
15 not limited to, the State Board of Education, the Refugee Program
16 Bureau within the State Department of Social Services, and the
17 Office of Immigrant Assistance within the Department of Justice,
18 to coordinate and streamline efforts and existing services provided
19 to California's immigrant communities by various state agencies.

20 (3) Work with state agencies and departments to identify
21 existing, and advocate for, culturally and linguistically competent
22 resources and programs that can be used by immigrant residents
23 to assist their integration, including, but not limited to, education,
24 adult education, language skills, civics, job training, health, and
25 naturalization services.

26 (4) Conduct data-driven policy analysis on issues impacting
27 immigrant communities and make policy recommendations to the
28 Legislature and the Governor on state level and federal level policy
29 impacting California's immigrants.

30 (5) Develop strategies and program proposals and identify
31 services that support the ability of new citizens to be economically
32 self-sufficient, participate in governance, and foster a sense of
33 belonging and responsibility to the community.

34 (6) Disseminate information and provide referrals to existing
35 ESL classes in order to help new citizens learn English, be
36 informed of our laws and support public safety, know their rights,
37 be responsible family members, engage in civic affairs, and
38 maximize their contributions to ensure a high quality of life in our
39 community.

1 (7) Work with educational institutions, community-based
2 organizations, nonprofits, and private programs to collect and
3 disseminate multilingual civics curriculum for people participating
4 in the Naturalization Services Program established pursuant to
5 Section 25200 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

6 (b) The office may accept donations from individuals and private
7 organizations to assist in the implementation of this section.

8 (c) The office shall partner and coordinate with other state
9 agencies to ensure proper outreach and response to the immigrant
10 community about state government's programs and resources. The
11 office shall partner and coordinate with other state agencies and
12 community-based organizations to coordinate, assist, and cooperate
13 with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the
14 needs of immigrants, especially in the areas of culture, education,
15 employment, health, housing, welfare, and recreation.

16 (d) The office shall be overseen and managed by a director to
17 be appointed by the Director of Community Services and
18 Development.

19 (e) The director of the office shall do all of the following:

20 (1) Administer the Naturalization Services Program, and develop
21 a program plan to add components to that program to allow it to
22 cater to the needs of California's immigrant population more
23 efficiently and effectively in the areas of naturalization and civic
24 participation.

25 (2) Work with local organizations to ensure the success and
26 availability of services provided through the Naturalization
27 Services Program and create a strategy to promote public awareness
28 of the contributions of immigrants and the ways that immigrants
29 can support community goals.

30 (3) Oversee all functions of the Office of Immigrant Affairs.

31 (f) (1) The Office of Immigrant Affairs may seek input from
32 nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to serve
33 immigrants and their families. The office may enter into
34 partnerships, cooperative agreements, or contracts with nonprofit
35 organizations to serve as liaisons between the office and the
36 immigrant communities in California. All partnerships, cooperative
37 agreements, or contracts shall be approved by the director of the
38 office. Nonprofit organizations may seek reimbursement from the
39 office, but that reimbursement is contingent upon approval by the

1 director and the availability of funding from the office's existing
2 budget.

3 (2) A liaison described in paragraph (1) shall do the following:

4 (A) Conduct stakeholder meetings in designated regions in
5 California to identify the needs of immigrants in California and
6 report its findings to the office for the purpose of increasing
7 awareness about immigrant communities and making policy
8 recommendations to the office.

9 (B) Gather information about the needs of California's
10 immigrant population, determine key state governmental resources
11 used by immigrant communities, identify key policy areas and
12 areas of concern, and report findings with recommendations to the
13 Legislature and the Governor as to how the state can respond to
14 the issues impacting California's immigrant population.

15 (C) Identify ways to define and measure immigrant integration
16 and self-reliance and report progress in these areas to the office.

17 (D) Work to identify ways to improve the naturalization process
18 and immigration services.

19 (g) The office may seek input from other nonprofit
20 organizations, state agencies, cities, counties, or other designated
21 entities to carry out the functions of the office.

22 (h) (1) *Beginning on May 1, 2009, and by May 1 of each*
23 *subsequent odd-numbered year, the office shall submit to the*
24 *Legislature a state plan that shall identify activities the office will*
25 *undertake to meet the general and specific goals of this section.*

26 (2) *All state plans presented to the Legislature in 2011 and*
27 *afterward will also include an assessment of the performance of*
28 *the office in fulfilling the activities presented in the previously*
29 *submitted state plan.*

30 (3) *The appropriate policy committee of the Assembly or the*
31 *Senate, or both, shall conduct one or more public hearings on*
32 *each submitted state plan. The chairs of the policy committees may*
33 *request the office to report on additional issues. At the discretion*
34 *of the respective chairs, the policy committees may hold a single*
35 *or joint hearing, or both, to satisfy the requirements of this section.*

36 (4) *The office shall make adjustments to the state plan as a result*
37 *of public comments presented at all legislative hearings and written*
38 *comments submitted to the office.*

O